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Dated: February 16, 2006 Signature: *B. Polito*

(Bruno Polito)

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Group Art Unit: 2132

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-156

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Jun Hirai

Application No.: 09/837,412

Group Art Unit: 2132

Filed: April 18, 2001

Examiner: M. Dinh

For: INFORMATION EMBEDDING APPARATUS  
AND METHOD, INFORMATION  
PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD,  
CONTENT PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, MONITORING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIA

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the official action dated December 20, 2005, finally rejecting claims 1-34, 47-52, 57, 58 and 60, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: